

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/362,715

Examiner

John M. Villecco

Applicant(s)

YUKAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on July 5, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5,7,9,13-16,18 and 19 (renumbered claims 1-9).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 5, 7, 9, 13-16, 18, and 19 (renumbered claims 1-9) are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 5, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a storing device for storing a state value to indicate whether display of an image captured is requested or not or a controller for driving the taking lens to a third focus position where in-focus condition is substantially obtained for distant to close-range views before display by the display device is started, wherein said driving of the taking lens is performed when power supply to the camera is started and the controller automatically starts driving of the display device after performing said driving of the taking lens if the controller determines that the state value indicates the display is requested when the power supply to the camera is started.

As for claim 14, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a storing device for storing a state value to indicate whether display of an image captured is requested or not or a controller for controlling image taking so that a captured image through the taking lens becomes substantially in-focus condition for distant to close-range views before automatically starting the display of the captured image by the display device, wherein said controlling is performed when power supply to a camera including the camera body is started if the controller determines that the state value indicated the display is requested.

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With regard to claim 16, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest determining based on a stored state value whether display of an image captured, is requested or not, when power supply to the camera is started, if the stored state value indicates that display is requested, automatically driving a taking lens to a focus position where in-focus condition is substantially obtained for distant to close range view, and when the display is requested, after the taking lens has reached the focus position, automatically starting the display of an image taken through the taking lens situated at the focus position.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Villecco whose telephone number is (571) 272-7319. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs, 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

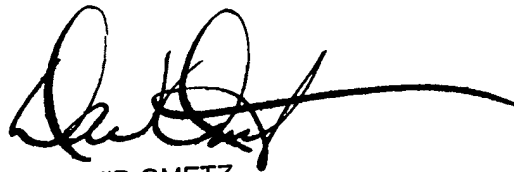
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



John M. Villecco
September 13, 2006



DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER